

AUGUST 1965

Approved For Release 2004/10/27 : CIA-RDP67B00446R000300060007-6

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HCUA

HUAC's Head Says Americans Underrate Threat of Communism

The chairman of the House un-American Activities Committee, which is best-known in the press as HUAC, is a steadfast fighter against communism.

He is Rep. Edwin E. Willis (D-La.), and in a recent summary of his committee's activities, he declared: "Many Americans tend to scoff at, dismiss lightly, and underrate the importance—and the dangers—of routine, day-to-day communist agitation and propaganda activities. Human nature being what it is, it is natural that stories of espionage and of high-level intrigue—published after the fact and after the damage has been done—get the blazing headlines and extensive, detailed news treatment. There is excitement and drama in such developments—and that is what makes news.

"The rank-and-file communist peddling 'The Worker' door to door, distributing handbills on a corner, speaking at a 'front' meeting, holding a minor union office, teaching in a school—or agitating in a remote village in a distant land—is, by comparison, drab and uninteresting. News media pay little or no attention to him.

"Yet it is such communists—rather than the espionage agents—who, to date, have played a major role in paving the way for communist revolutions and the destruction of freedom in a number of nations. Moscow has accomplished more through them than some would-be world conquerors of the past could accomplish through the use of all their military power.

"The communists' constant 'Hate America' barrage results in more than 'Yankee Go Home' signs in foreign lands. It pays off in the bombing of United States Information Service libraries abroad, the storming of U. S. embassies, open insults hurled at our diplomatic representatives and high State Department officials in their travels abroad, and in many other ways.

"At home, it results in certain of our own citizens defying our laws, stealing our secrets, and engaging in other traitorous activities."